

APPLICATION: 16-1699 ACQ, LEHMAN UPLANDS CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Sponsor: Methow Conservancy Program: WWRP - Critical Habitat Status: Application Submitted

APPLICATION REVIEW

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Acquisition Projects - Manual 3](#)
[Long Term Obligations - Manual 7](#)
[Acquisition Project Toolkit for Grant Sponsors](#)
[Developing a PowerPoint Presentation](#)
[WWRP - Habitat and Riparian Programs](#)
[Grant Applicant's To-Do-Lists](#)
[WWRP - CH Grant Applicant's To-Do-Lists](#)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Wednesday, May 25th

10:15 am 16-1699A, Methow Conservancy – Lehman Uplands (Julie Grialou)

- Number slides
- Introduction should include orientation to the subject site and what this grant will do (acquire xx acres of land via a conservation easement to protect xx)
- Maps and pictures are too small. Make them larger on slide and don't use too many on each slide.
- Include a north arrow and scale on all maps.
- Do not phase in graphics, pictures, bullets, etc.
- "Olive green circles" do not look olive green on our end.
- Too much text on slides, which leaves too little room for pictures and maps. Use pictures and maps to answer the criteria with bullets to highlight what you're saying. Committee is trying to read the text on the slide instead of listening to what you're saying.
- Community species slides with pictures of species are good. Pictures are big enough to see. Just add text at the bottom of each picture with the name of that species.
- It's okay to be repetitive, with words and with pictures and maps. Individual criteria is scored on its own merits and how you answer them. Don't expect the committee to remember what you said before or after when scoring a specific criteria.
- Coldwell Banker for sale sign...is this on the subject property?
- Grazing management plan will need to be approved by RCO for the subject site if the project is funded.
- Ran out of time.

Advisory Committee Comments:

- Connectivity value but need map to display and support. Need something to highlight the connectivity. Emphasis this and use map attached at G-1 in PRISM.
- Plans slide...biodiversity council products shown. Consider how to use this as the council is no longer in place.
- Bigger pictures and maps and sell it with your script. Emphasis on what is important and critical and "show" on screen.
- It's okay to be repetitive but keep it applicable to the criteria being scored.
- What about the roads? Value/detriment to habitat? How are you going to protect habitat with these roads?
- Holistic grazing...be clear of framework, or at least what you're thinking, in final presentation.
- Don't use "I think" in presentation. Be factual. Go ahead and say it with confidence.
- Why conservation easement and not fee title. Say in introduction.
- Reintroduction of grouse...will it be or not? And how?
- Don't just list habitat. Indicate the quality and how determined.
- Primary objective riparian/wetland. Need representation to show the percentage of these areas. Support with map and/or pictures.
- Are there water rights associated with the property via the stream?
- Long-term management? Speak to past experience in monitoring and managing a conservation easement of this large scale.
- Is there development along the road between Twisp and Winthrop? I think the maps show there is not. Member of the committee was curious.

PROJECT DETAILS

Page	Grant Manager Comment
Property Details	Since this will be a conservation easement, ensure the requirements in Manual 3 are met (http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual_3_acq.pdf , Less Than Fee Title Acquisitions, beginning on page 10).

METRICS

Page	Grant Manager Comment
Acquisition Metrics	<p>Acres zoned as agricultural land: Since Okanogan County doesn't have agriculture zoning but does have an agriculture tax classification, which applies to this property in its entirety, I would include the 1,028 acres here.</p> <p>Acres that will be grazed: Add a note to identify if this is continued grazing. Ensure it complies with RCO's grazing policy (http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual_10b.pdf, page 32).</p> <p>Boundary line adjustment: Are you purchasing a conservation easement on a portion of a larger parcel and is a BLA required? I see you also have survey costs included. If only a survey is needed I would move your BLA costs to your survey costs.</p>

Page	Grant Manager Comment
	<p>Closing, Recording, Taxes, Title: Seems a bit high.</p> <p>Fencing: In your Expanded Project Description you say "Cattle would be fenced out of the riparian draws and wetland." yet I see no fencing costs.</p> <p>Noxious Weed Control: Only 80 acres for noxious weed control? Eligible for \$125/acre. Is it because the rest of the land is being grazed?</p>
Overall Project Metrics	<p>Projected date of completion: This is the date whereby the entire project will be complete, include post-closing incidentals (i.e. noxious weed control). Ensure you give yourself enough time as this date is the same as the Planned Acquisition Date in the Property Details tab.</p>

COSTS

Page	Grant Manager Comment
Acquisition Cost Estimates	<p>Closing, Recording, Taxes, Title: Seem a bit high.</p> <p>Total Estimated Admin: Pretty low. I would bump up your admin request as you cannot exceed the requested admin amount without approval from RCO. If you don't use all of your admin it can go toward acquisition of the conservation easement and/or incidentals, if needed.</p>

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Page	Grant Manager Comment
Acquisition Questions	<p>#3: A funding acknowledgement sign is required to be posted as the site once acquired with RCO grant funds, unless a request to waive this requirement is submitted and approved by RCO. In your Expanded Project Description you say "Cattle would be fenced out of the riparian draws and wetland." . If fencing will occur within the project area it may trigger RCO to require cultural resources.</p> <p>#5: What about the livestock grazing and its associated lease? See http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual_10b.pdf, page 32.</p>
Overall Project Questions	<p>#2: Ensure you are up-front in your description and in your PowerPoint presentation that public access will not be provided in the project area.</p> <p>#4: Describe how the acquisition of a conservation easement on this property will address or accommodate climate change.</p>